

**SPECIAL MEETING  
BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN  
(PUBLIC PARTICIPATION)**

**August 1, 2006**

**7:00 PM**

Mayor Guinta called the meeting to order.

Mayor Guinta called for the Pledge of Allegiance, this function being led by Alderman Roy.

A moment of silent prayer was observed.

The Clerk called the roll. There were eleven Aldermen present.

Present: Aldermen Roy, Gatsas, Long, Duval, Osborne, Pinard, O’Neil,  
Lopez, Shea, DeVries, Forest

Absent: Aldermen Garrity, Smith and Thibault

Mayor Guinta stated before we start the public forum of the meeting in case anyone has not heard obviously former Mayor Bob Baines has been in the hospital and I hope that everyone’s thoughts and prayers continue to be with him. He’s done a tremendous amount of work for the City of Manchester and from what I understand he’s doing very well. He’s got family and a great support network with him and I know that you and the public sentiments will certainly be in good thoughts as mine are as well as the Aldermen.

Alderman Lopez stated his wife asked me if I would read a statement, is it permissible.

“On behalf of our family I would like to express our heartfelt appreciation to the community for the outpouring of concern and good wishes for Bob during the past two weeks. We have been overwhelmed by the cards, flowers and phone calls. His prognosis is excellent. We expect him to be back to work in a few weeks and he will continue to be active in the community he loves so much.”

Mayor Guinta advised that the purpose of the special meeting is to give residents of Manchester the opportunity to address the Board on items of concern affecting the community; that each person will be given only one opportunity to speak; that comments shall be limited to three minutes to allow all participants the opportunity to speak and any comments must be directed to the Chair.

Mayor Guinta requested that any resident wishing to speak come forward to the nearest microphone, clearly state their name and address when recognized, and give their comments.

Representative Jean Jeudy, 134 Calef Road, Manchester, NH (Re: Safety), stated:

Lately I have been very concerned about the livelihood of Manchester residents. It has been reported that there are drive by shootings in several locations in the greater Manchester area. We must do something before someone really, really gets hurt. In my opinion we need to address this with Congressman Jeb Bradley for some federal funding to put more police on the streets. *(Reiterated what he just said in French for the west side residents watching MCTV.)*

Thomas Eiler, 105 Glendale Avenue, Manchester, NH (Re: 23 & 41 Jewett Street), stated:

I'm representing the Sandpipers Condo Association and this is in reference to the property across the street from us. They want to put up buildings on sub-standard size lots. We've all recently received letters from the City stating this issue regarding the lady on the corner and garbage that we have no control over the amount of garbage put there by the other units so we're all concerned about being fined. The other issues are snow plowing...the association is paying for that, the street is not wide enough, there's flooding and I have pictures of all of that. There are six units on the street not part of the association and they're pumping basements regularly because they're lower. The proper on Cilley Road is on a decline so we're at the bottom and when it rains the water comes down and floods the properties. What happens when they dig up the streets to put in sewers...we already have our own pumping station/recycling so if something would happen to that who's going to pay.

Jane Beaulieu, 609 So. Main Street, Manchester, NH (Re: Preservation), stated:

Representative Jean Jeudy was talking about the crime in the City. I think one of the major problems that we have in this City is we have too many absentee landlords. We need to hold these landlords accountable and I think there's a way to draft some ordinance to make the absentee landlords responsible because if you take a look at where the crime is it is in very distressed areas where there are a lot of three and four-families. Many of these three and four-family units have landlords that do not even live in the state. So, I'd like to propose that there is some conversation about perhaps taking a look at absentee landlords to reduce the crime in some of these neighborhoods and hold them accountable for what is going on in their buildings. Next, I'd like to touch upon preservation...historic preservation. Last week the Weston Fire Station did come down and I was there the day before talking to the neighbors. I know that it was in disrepair so it did need to come down but there are some immediate...there are some buildings that the City owned that really should be paid some attention too and should be taken a look at to restore and preserve which is the Ash Street School, the Weston Observatory and there are a few others. Next, I'd like to just make note that the Blacksmith Shop on Bass Island is eligible to be on the Historic Registry and now we're going to move forward with that and that should take about six months but it will be on the registry and we'd really like to make a point about the Master Plan and how preservation needs to be somehow written in there throughout the Master Plan because the City of Manchester is what it is because years of building up to this point and residents that

are natives that were born and raised here made the City what it is today so I think there should be a lot of preservation in the Master Plan. Thank you for your time.

Joshua Dolman, 411 Hevey Street, Manchester, NH (Re: Crime on the west side), stated: I'm going into my Sophomore year at Manchester High School West and as someone who lives on the west side of the City I am deeply concerned with the increasing rate of crime developing on the west side. It has become such a dangerous situation on the west side that residents are beginning to feel unsafe and it's become such a serious problem that citizens are afraid to walk around their own neighborhood. It would be a comforting site to see some police officers on walking or bicycle patrol that way people would be less likely to partake in criminal behavior. It is time we stop neglecting the west side of Manchester and start preventing this criminal behavior or recreate another inner-city situation. I stand before you trying to find a solution to a problem that has already occurred on the east side during the early 90's. We as citizens cannot allow such a hostile environment to be recreated over on the west side of Manchester. Maybe one solution would be to create a neighborhood housing policy over on the west side so there would be more owner-occupied property. I believe that this would create a situation where land owners are more likely to take pride of where they live and be more selective to who they allow to rent. With school beginning in a month many parents and students are concerned with the dangers involved in walking to and from school. It is my opinion that by placing police officers in the middle schools along with the high schools we would be creating a safer environment. I also believe that a huge injustice was done when the School Board voted to remove the DARD Program in Manchester public schools. For those of you who are unaware of the program it creates a fun environment for students learning the dangers involved with drugs and violence. As someone who's graduated from the DARE Program I know how much of a positive effect it can have on students. With the DARE Program we would be sopping the problem at its source and make way for a safer and brighter future. I would like to conclude my statement by acknowledging the fact that there are budget constraints and no one likes an increase in taxes but I ask you all how can you put a price on a human life. If we ignore these problems any longer we will be allowing the west side of town to become a dangerous and unfit place to live. For too long the west side of Manchester has been treated like a second-class citizen. There are good people that still live here, who pay their property taxes, live with healthy morals and by ignoring their shouts for help you're making them feel like they have no worth. Do you really want to allow Manchester to become the next South Bronx or innocent victims of being shot in drive-by shootings. How can we explain to a mother who has lost her child that we could have prevented her son or daughter's death but we didn't want to increase taxes. What exactly is the value of a human life? Thank you.

Rachel Reardon, 18 Weston Street, Manchester, NH (Re: Weston Street Fire Station), stated:

My house directly faced the front of the Weston Street Firehouse. I'm really here just to say thank you to those who were involved taking the building down. I guess it was a shame that

20 years ago it couldn't be preserved but it really had just become the hideous eyesore that attracted elements to the neighborhood. I don't think people outside the neighborhood really realized the amount of kids coming up there all the time, kids trying to break the doors down with myself, my husband and others having to tell them to hit the road. It's a little bit of a misconception but I heard that the neighborhood really wanted the building to remain.

Glenn Ouellette, 112 Auburn Street, Manchester, NH (Re: shootings), stated:

I'm also here to talk about the shootings...it started in June and then we have a second one three weeks later and now it seems to be happening every other day...on the west side on the east side. We need to put a grip on it. We have a problem in this City and the problem isn't necessarily our citizens. I am aware as a lot of citizens are that the crime is coming from outside...the drug dealers, the gangs. We need to stop them in their feet now. The iron is hot and we need to fight that off, it's crazy. I suggest that somebody here forms a task force like they did in the 1990's when the east side was under fire and plans be done and let neighborhoods come out and be counted and speak up and say we're not going to take this anymore. The money we put into this safety is going to pay us back in the end, it did in the 90's...we cleaned up the mess in the 90's. I'm convinced that with the Aldermanic Board here and Mayor we can do it again. So, please work together and get this job done at any cost. Thank you. One more thing...the DARE Program...I was told this year by some of the School Board members that they were going to consider bringing it back, it was not brought back. In the middle of June up by CVS on Elm Street there were people here from Boston selling toys and the money was going to the DARE Program of Boston...that's ridiculous. We have a drug problem in this City and until our officials have the guts to admit it we need to teach our kids to stay aware from drugs. How can you say no more DARE Program when we have the crimes that we have now. Thank you.

Don Welch, Goffstown, NH (speaking on behalf of a Manchester resident regarding the flooding), stated:

I still love Manchester and I'll be back soon. I'm here tonight on behalf of a Manchester resident. I will discuss this with Alderman Forest in privately in a little more detail but I'm going to ask the entire Aldermanic Board and the Mayor to see if there's something that can be done about this. Up on the west side of Goffstown Road in the proximity of Philip Street there's a woman living there who are going to an outhouse, a Porta-Potty to go to the bathroom. The house has been flooded out, their cellar is totally emerged, pays taxes on a house that's worth two hundred thousand plus. She told somebody in the City or someplace that if they want this house for a hundred or a hundred and fifty it's yours. Apparently, there's a pond in proximity to the house and after these floods that we had it just totally ruined her whole house. I don't know the full particulars of FEMA but every door she's tried to knock on were closed and her husband died a few years back and she's pretty much alone. I don't think any 70 year old lady should having to be using a Porta-Potty, she's lived here, her family's lived here and have been here for over a hundred years. I don't know what

the City can do. If any of the Aldermen have questions they can get a hold of me through Armand Forest and I'll be talking to you later.

Greg Salts, 23 Pennacook Street, Manchester, NH, stated:

There might be federal funds available run by that program. I don't know.

There being no one else present wishing to speak, on motion of Alderman Shea, duly seconded by Alderman DeVries, it was voted to take all comments under advisement and further to receive and file any written documentation presented.

This being a special meeting of the Board, no further business was presented and on motion of Alderman Long, duly seconded by Alderman Duval it was voted to adjourn.

A True Record. Attest.

City Clerk